

Wisconsin's Top Jobs

The occupations on this list have an above average wage and are ranked by total annual openings. Shown are ten occupations from each of eight education/training categories. Please see notes below.

SOC Code	Occupation Title	2004	2006	Percent Change	Total Annual Openings	Avg Annual Salary	Hourly Wages - Middle Wage Range
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Beyond a Bachelor's Degree - master's, doctoral, or professional degree, or a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus work experience

11-1021	General and Operations Managers	28,200	28,850	2.3%	800	\$92,970	\$25.98 - 57.50
21-2011	Clergy	14,340	14,530	1.3%	390	\$39,940	\$17.03 - 21.40
25-1071	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	4,780	5,060	5.9%	250	\$101,680	N/A
21-1021	Child, Family, and School Social Workers	6,160	6,390	3.7%	210	\$38,450	\$13.98 - 22.14
11-2022	Sales Managers	5,020	5,250	4.6%	210	\$91,370	\$28.40 - 55.05
19-3021	Market Research Analysts	4,420	4,560	3.2%	190	\$60,140	\$19.43 - 35.49
11-9111	Medical and Health Services Managers	4,420	4,630	4.8%	190	\$74,680	\$26.09 - 41.21
11-3021	Computer and Information Systems Managers	4,610	4,810	4.3%	180	\$90,590	\$34.21 - 51.20
29-1051	Pharmacists	4,320	4,500	4.2%	170	\$89,730	\$38.39 - 49.60
23-1011	Lawyers	10,060	10,140	0.8%	160	\$97,240	\$30.09 - 57.13

Bachelor's Degree

29-1111	Registered Nurses ⁽⁷⁾	47,100	49,310	4.7%	1,980	\$52,550	\$21.56 - 28.44
25-2031	Secondary School Teachers, Ex Special & Vocational Ed	25,440	25,970	2.1%	940	\$44,070	N/A
25-2021	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	30,820	31,320	1.6%	850	\$42,920	N/A
13-2011	Accountants and Auditors	21,530	22,020	2.3%	630	\$55,380	\$19.96 - 31.32
15-1051	Computer Systems Analysts	13,750	14,370	4.5%	440	\$70,100	\$25.26 - 42.16
25-2022	Middle School Teachers, Ex Special & Vocational Ed	16,910	17,000	0.5%	380	\$42,560	N/A
15-1031	Computer Software Engineers, Applications	7,630	8,060	5.6%	280	\$65,830	\$25.70 - 37.03
13-1023	Purchasing Agents, Ex Wholesale, Retail, & Farm Products	7,270	7,450	2.5%	260	\$48,590	\$17.67 - 27.56
41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	7,930	8,060	1.6%	250	\$55,370	\$14.20 - 32.89
17-2141	Mechanical Engineers	7,530	7,590	0.8%	240	\$62,580	\$24.37 - 34.75

SOC Code	Occupation Title	2004	2006	Percent Change	Total Annual Openings	Avg Annual Salary	Hourly Wages - Middle Wage Range
Associate Degree							
15-1041	Computer Support Specialists	8,240	8,510	3.3%	230	\$38,560	\$14.73 - 21.61
29-2034	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	4,030	4,180	3.7%	150	\$43,750	\$18.09 - 24.43
17-3023	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians	3,250	3,340	2.8%	120	\$42,670	\$16.78 - 24.38
29-2021	Dental Hygienists	4,100	4,270	4.1%	120	\$52,970	\$23.65 - 27.39
29-1126	Respiratory Therapists	1,450	1,550	6.9%	100	\$44,650	\$18.92 - 24.48
23-2011	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	2,570	2,640	2.7%	60	\$37,090	\$14.12 - 20.98
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	1,230	1,290	4.9%	50	\$35,820	\$15.07 - 19.87
17-3026	Industrial Engineering Technicians	1,590	1,630	2.5%	50	\$45,070	\$16.41 - 24.69
19-4031	Chemical Technicians	1,030	1,040	1.0%	40	\$37,480	\$14.25 - 21.03
29-2031	Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians	660	710	7.6%	40	\$41,100	\$14.32 - 24.59

Postsecondary Vocational Training

29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	11,110	11,370	2.3%	360	\$35,550	\$14.90 - 19.41
49-3031	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	5,250	5,400	2.9%	210	\$35,380	\$13.91 - 20.07
17-3013	Mechanical Drafters	3,630	3,650	0.6%	110	\$41,180	\$15.98 - 23.17
43-6012	Legal Secretaries	3,830	3,860	0.8%	90	\$35,840	\$14.75 - 20.24
29-2055	Surgical Technologists	2,040	2,150	5.4%	90	\$38,390	\$15.76 - 20.94
13-2021	Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate	1,700	1,750	2.9%	70	\$42,540	\$10.18 - 26.48
49-3042	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	2,010	2,050	2.0%	60	\$40,320	\$16.66 - 21.70
49-2022	Telecom Equipment Installers & Repairers, Ex Line Installers	3,460	3,430	-0.9%	60	\$45,140	\$18.39 - 25.87
41-9022	Real Estate Sales Agents	2,160	2,200	1.9%	60	\$57,150	\$14.31 - 31.10
49-2094	Electrical & Electronics Repairers, Commercial & Industrial Equipment	1,310	1,350	3.1%	50	\$41,890	\$17.02 - 22.99

Work Experience in Related Occupation

51-1011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers	22,300	22,830	2.4%	700	\$48,860	\$17.57 - 27.38
43-1011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Office & Admin Support Workers	25,830	25,900	0.3%	550	\$43,680	\$15.60 - 25.04
41-1011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	27,810	27,880	0.3%	500	\$37,430	\$12.38 - 20.75
47-1011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Const. Trades & Extraction Workers	10,400	10,890	4.7%	410	\$59,580	\$21.64 - 32.55
49-1011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Mechanics, Installers, & Repairers	8,980	9,160	2.0%	300	\$53,020	\$19.77 - 29.89
41-1012	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Non-Retail Sales Workers	8,160	8,270	1.3%	200	\$74,030	\$22.24 - 42.32
53-1031	First-Line Sups/Mnrgs of Transp/Material-Moving Machine/Vehicle Oprs	5,000	5,110	2.2%	170	\$48,270	\$16.44 - 27.38
25-1194	Vocational Education Teachers, Postsecondary	3,160	3,340	5.7%	160	\$49,930	\$16.28 - 30.62
11-9051	Food Service Managers	4,990	5,090	2.0%	130	\$39,260	\$13.86 - 22.76
53-1021	First-Line Sups/Managers of Helpers/Laborers/Material Movers/Hand	4,160	4,230	1.7%	130	\$43,000	\$15.41 - 24.53

SOC Code	Occupation Title	2004	2006	Percent Change	Total Annual Openings	Avg Annual Salary	Hourly Wages - Middle Wage Range
Long-Term On-the-Job Training (one year or more)							
47-2031	Carpenters	32,420	33,630	3.7%	1,090	\$38,880	\$14.37 - 23.60
47-2111	Electricians	14,130	14,890	5.4%	640	\$44,940	\$17.98 - 25.74
47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	10,190	10,690	4.9%	480	\$47,730	\$17.26 - 28.72
51-4041	Machinists	14,380	14,640	1.8%	450	\$35,790	\$13.78 - 20.49
33-3051	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	10,650	10,970	3.0%	420	\$44,650	\$18.61 - 25.06
49-9021	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	5,060	5,430	7.3%	250	\$36,490	\$12.79 - 21.16
49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	6,750	6,890	2.1%	200	\$41,040	\$16.73 - 22.90
51-4111	Tool and Die Makers	4,860	4,890	0.6%	120	\$44,390	\$18.14 - 25.06
13-1031	Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	5,780	5,870	1.6%	110	\$43,210	\$15.09 - 25.65
47-2021	Brickmasons and Blockmasons	3,160	3,290	4.1%	110	\$49,140	\$19.98 - 27.62

Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training (one to twelve months)

53-3032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	54,980	56,760	3.2%	1,710	\$36,690	\$14.06 - 20.80
41-4012	Sales Reps, Wholesale & Mfg, Ex Technical & Scientific Products	33,460	34,500	3.1%	1,390	\$56,390	\$17.66 - 32.77
41-4011	Sales Reps, Wholesale & Mfg, Technical & Scientific Products	7,480	7,730	3.3%	330	\$66,530	\$20.41 - 39.33
47-2073	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	7,080	7,350	3.8%	320	\$44,320	\$17.24 - 25.33
47-2051	Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	4,400	4,710	7.0%	250	\$40,120	\$15.08 - 23.54
47-2211	Sheet Metal Workers	4,940	5,190	5.1%	250	\$41,440	\$14.25 - 25.30
51-9196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	7,910	7,740	-2.1%	160	\$35,620	\$14.43 - 20.11
51-2041	Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	3,430	3,470	1.2%	100	\$35,220	\$14.45 - 19.35
47-2081	Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers	1,780	1,890	6.2%	100	\$41,950	\$15.93 - 24.89
47-2041	Carpet Installers	2,330	2,420	3.9%	80	\$38,080	\$13.72 - 23.41

Short-Term On-the-Job Training (one month or less)

43-5061	Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	8,530	8,770	2.8%	320	\$37,070	\$14.03 - 21.26
43-5052	Postal Service Mail Carriers	6,670	6,630	-0.6%	200	\$42,220	\$16.92 - 24.12
43-5053	Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, & Processing Machine Oprs	4,380	4,260	-2.7%	110	\$37,840	\$17.45 - 20.62
51-2031	Engine and Other Machine Assemblers	1,880	1,870	-0.5%	50	\$36,000	\$14.55 - 20.89
43-5051	Postal Service Clerks	1,230	1,220	-0.8%	30	\$41,690	\$18.30 - 21.37

Notes:

- (1) **Employment** includes self-employed and unpaid family workers. Employment is rounded to the nearest ten, with employment less than five rounded to zero. Totals may not add due to rounding.
- (2) **Total openings** are the sum of new jobs and replacements.
- (3) **Replacements** are an estimate of the number of job openings expected because people have permanently left a given occupation. Permanent exits occur if someone dies, retires, or otherwise leaves the labor force. Permanent exits also include openings resulting from someone permanently changing occupations. For example, a person leaves their job as a cashier and becomes a truck driver. Openings resulting from people changing employers, but staying in the same occupation are not included.

SOC				Percent	Total	Avg	Hourly Wages -
Code	Occupation Title	2004	2006	Change	Annual Openings	Annual Salary	Middle Wage Range

- (4) **Typical Education and Training Path** gives a general indication of the education or training typically needed in the occupation. There may be other pathways into the occupation, as well as additional educational, training, or licensing requirements.

Short-Term On-the-Job Training: These occupations require no more than one month of on-the-job training and the training usually happens at the workplace.

Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training: Training for these occupations usually occurs at the workplace and lasts from one to twelve months.

Long-Term On-the-Job Training: These occupations require more than one year of on-the-job training, or combined work experience and classroom instruction.

Work Experience in Related Occupation: Occupations in this category require skills and experience gained in other jobs.

Postsecondary Vocational Training: These formal training programs last from a few weeks to more than a year, and are offered at vocational or technical schools.

Associate Degree: This degree requires two years of full-time academic work beyond high school.

Bachelor's Degree: This degree requires four or five years of full-time academic work at a college or university.

Master's Degree: This degree requires one to two years of full-time study beyond a bachelor's degree.

Doctoral Degree: This degree usually requires at least three years of full-time study beyond a bachelor's degree.

First Professional Degree: These degrees typically require at least two years of full-time study beyond a bachelor's degree.

Bachelor's or higher degree, plus work experience: These occupations require a bachelor's or higher degree, in addition to

- (5) **Average Annual Salary:** An occupation's average hourly wage is calculated by summing the wages of all employees in a given occupation and then dividing by the total number of employees in that occupation. In most cases, the annual average salary is equal
- (6) **Hourly Wage Rate - Middle Range:** The middle range identifies the 25th and 75th percentiles in the hourly wage distribution for a given occupation. Fifty percent of the workers in the occupation earn wages in this range. In most cases, the entry level wage is at or below the 25th percentile.
- (7) Depending on the specific position and employer, either a bachelor's degree or an associate degree are most common.

Indicates a wage greater than \$70.00 an hour or a salary greater than \$145,600 annually.

N/A indicates data is not available.

Information is derived using the 2004 OES Survey, 2004 QCEW and 2004 CES (3/04 Benchmark) data. Unpublished data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and US Census Bureau was also used.

To the extent possible, the projections take into account anticipated changes in Wisconsin's economy during 2005 and 2006. It is important to note that unanticipated events may affect the accuracy of these projections.

Source: Office of Economic Advisors, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oea>

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